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Finally, the President called upon Mr. Freeman, the lately appointed Governor of the new British settlement of Lagos, to address the meeting.

MR. FREEMAN said that hitherto he had never visited Western Africa, but that he had resided for some years in Northern Africa, and there in Tunis and Tripoli, and especially in Ghadames, had seen a great deal of the commerce of Central Africa. He could not but be aware of the great importance of Lagos, in offering a new opening to that commerce. Until lately by far the greater part of it had been carried across the Sahara, a distance of five or six months' journey; too long to be remunerative, unless combined with a trade in slaves. But the slave-trade being now abolished in Northern Africa, the traffic across the Sahara was rapidly diminishing, and the commerce of the Soudan was consequently seeking a new outlet in some part of the western coast. Lagos was eminently suited to be that outlet, owing to its neighbourhood to the mouths of the Niger, and means of overland access to the confluence of the Benue and Chad. Thence Kano, the chief emporium of Central Africa, might be reached in a fortnight, and both Sokoto and Timbuctu were accessible. He thoroughly agreed with the President on the importance of gaining an influence over the Africans before attempting to convert them, and he believed that by opening a trade from Lagos we should obtain that influence.

2. *Recent African Explorations*;—*Proceedings of* (a) SPEKE, (b) PETHERICK, (c) LEJEAN, (d) PENNY, and (e) LIVINGSTONE.

(a) *Extracts from a Letter by Captain SPEKE to Lieut.-Col. RIGBY, H.B.M.'s Consul at Zanzibar, dated Khoko in Western Ugogo, 12th December, 1860.*

"WE are now scarcely knowing what to do. Before us is the desert of M'Gunda M'Kali, and beyond that again the country of Tura—all famished, and without a grain of food to sell us; yet these are not a quarter of the difficulties we have to contend against. Our Kirangozi and nearly all the porters have run away, and our Mozigos are lying on the ground. The rains too are very severe, worse even than an Indian monsoon. Our losses in the rough amount to nine mules, twenty-five slaves of the Sultan, and eighty Wanyamwesis, so you may imagine our dilemma. But we are not out of spirits. Grant is a very dear friend, and being a good sportsman we get through our days wonderfully. At this place alone I have killed two rhinoceroses and three buffaloes, and Grant, a little further back, killed a giraffe. In addition to these, we have killed numbers and many varieties of antelopes, zebras, pigs, and hyenas.

"We often think of you and the great service you have rendered to the expedition by giving us Baraka and the others of your crew; they are the life of the camp. As to Baraka, he is the 'father' of his race, and a general of great distinction among the serviles. I do not know what we should have done without him. Bombay, with all his honesty and kind fellow-feeling, has not half

the power of command that Baraka has. Would that I had listened to Bombay when at Zanzibar, and had engaged double the number of his 'free men,' for they do all the work, and do it as an enlightened and disciplined people—so very different from the Sultan's slaves, in whom there is no trust whatever. Many of the Sultan's men I liberated from slavery, and gave them muskets as an earnest of good faith, at the same time telling them they should eventually receive the same amount of wages as all the other 'free men;' but they have deserted me, carrying off their weapons, and so reducing my number of guns.

"Travelling here is much like marching up the grand trunk road in Bengal; the only things we want are a few laws to prevent desertion, and all would be easy. We are moving to-day with ten days' rations, but only in half-marches, sending the men back from each camp, to bring up the remainder of the loads. It is a tiresome business. At Tura I shall leave many things behind, and push on to Kazeh, to hire more men to fetch them up."

(b) PETHERICK.

Mr. Petherick's last communication is dated Korosko, August 9th, 1861. He was then engaged in sending his effects across the Nubian desert, by the overland route to Khartum, and was in daily expectation of the arrival of his new boat from Cairo, together with two members of his party who had not yet joined him.

(c) LEJEAN.

One if not both of the expeditions that had preceded Mr. Petherick to explore the White Nile, have come to a premature termination. M. Lejean penetrated no further than the Barri country, whence he returned, wearied with the people and suffering from ill-health; and Dr. Peney, after adding materially to our knowledge of the neighbourhood of Gondakoro, has unhappily died.

(d) PENEY.

The last two letters that were written by Dr. Peney are now just published in the '*Nouvelles Annales des Voyages*.' They were addressed to M. Jomard. The first of them is dated Gondakoro, February 20th, 1861. He states that he had returned from a journey due West to the district of Mourou, in the province of Niam-barra. He was eight days in reaching it, but only thirty-one hours of actual travel. He therefore places Mourou on the same parallel of latitude as Gondakoro, and one degree of longitude more to the westward.

There he arrived at the river Itiéy, running to the N.W. It was

described to him as continuing the same course through the province of Niam-barra, then through the tribe of the Allah, next bounding the Niam-Niam-Maharaka, then penetrating the Djour country, and finally reaching the Bahr el Ghazal, of which it was one of the principal affluents.

Upwards from Mourou, at a distance of 20 leagues s.e., the river passed through Monda; but of the country above Monda no satisfactory information could be obtained.

Dr. Peney's last letter is dated May 20th, 1861, and is written after his return from a preparatory journey, partly in boats and partly on foot, up and beyond the cataracts of Makedo. His boats had received damage at the commencement of his voyage, and he lost so many ropes and spars as to render them useless for the moment; but he found small lateral arms of the main river, up which he felt assured he could navigate them on a future journey. The natives reported that beyond the limit of his journey, the river spread out into a broad sheet of water, of great depth, but sluggish current. Animated by this account, he was preparing for a second boat expedition southwards in the month of July, as soon as the rising Nile should have made the navigation more practicable, when his plans were cut short by death. His furthest limit was close upon that of Galuffi, and he places it on the same meridian as Gondakoro, and one degree to the south of it. M. Debono was associated with him at the time of his death, but we have no knowledge at present of Debono's movements.

MR. GALTON said that Dr. Peney, in his first journey, seemed to have fallen upon the southernmost portion of Mr. Petherick's route, at a distance of only 60 miles from Gondakoro. Although Mr. Petherick's name does not appear in Dr. Peney's account, which might have been written in entire ignorance of what Mr. Petherick had published, there could be little doubt that the district explored by the two travellers was the same, the tribes' names Mourou and Monda, Niam Niam, and Djour, in addition to the account of the river, being common to both narratives. If this were the case it would involve an enormous amount of rectification of Mr. Petherick's positions, both in actual distance travelled and in the direction of his course from the Bahr el Ghazal. Neither of these corrections surpass the bounds of possibility: for Mr. Petherick's reckoning of 19 miles' journey per diem, in a straight line, is double what other travellers under similar circumstances are found to accomplish; and as to the direction of his route, not only do the rough compass-bearings, on which alone he depended, admit of that large error, but there is the following additional reason to believe in its existence; namely, that the rough map by the brothers Poncet, compiled from various cross routes of traders, places the Djour and Niam Niam countries closely in the position assigned to them by Dr. Peney, and far more eastwards than in the map of Mr. Petherick. Now that the latter traveller has returned to the Soudan, well provided with astronomical instruments and instructed in their use, we may hope for a corresponding degree of accuracy in the geographical data that his future explorations may afford to us.

(e) LIVINGSTONE.

The last news of Dr. Livingstone is dated April 9th, 1861. Extracts of the letter are given as follows, the Doctor having himself written it in the third person :—

“On the 9th of April last, Dr. Livingstone’s expedition arrived at Pomony Bay in the island of Johanna, from the river Rovuma.* They had ascended the river only 30 miles, when, halting to wood their ship, a mark made on a tree showed that the water was falling at the rate of 6 or 7 inches a day. They had found some parts carrying no more than 5 or 6 feet of water, and, as they drew nearly 5 feet, they had to return, lest they should be left fixtures till the flood of next year. The cause of this unsuccessful termination is to be attributed to various delays suffered by the *Pioneer* in the voyage out, making her at last quite two months behind the time for a successful trip up the river. After coaling, they left for the Zambesi, intending to go up the Shiré, and then make a road past Murchison Cataract on that river to Lake Nyassa. The distance is only 35 miles, and it is hoped that they will carry a boat up above the cataracts, and by that means explore the lake.

“It is also in contemplation to settle the point whether the Rovuma comes out of Nyassa, as asserted by all the people they met, before going in the *Pioneer* again to that river. The Oxford and Cambridge Mission accompany the expedition up the Shiré, and it is proposed to place these gentlemen on the plateau of 4000 feet above the sea, on which stands Mount Zomba. There they are likely to enjoy good health while pursuing their enterprise. They have had a good deal of fever, but no mortality. The healthy season begins in May.

“The Rovuma will probably turn out to be the best entrance into Eastern Africa. It must, however, be navigated with a vessel of light draught, and with the same skill as is required in the above-bridge London passenger-boats. On the question whether it actually derives its waters from Nyassa, the Doctor thinks that it cannot come out of the Nyassa he discovered, but from some other lake. The reasons he adduces are : the Nyassa is already known to give off one large river, the Shiré. This river never rises nor falls more than 3 feet, nor is its water ever discoloured. The Rovuma rises and falls 6 or more feet, becomes very muddy, and no instance is known of one lake giving off two large rivers. The probability, therefore, is, that if the Rovuma does come out of a Nyassa or Nyanza (lake, or piece of water), it is some other than that dis-

* See also *The Rovuma River* (p. 36) in “Additional Notices.”

covered by the expedition. It is well known that lakes having no outlets become brackish in the course of ages. This is the case with Shirwa, but Nyassa and Tanganyika are sweet. The former owes its sweetness to the Shiré flowing out of it. Does Tanganyika owe its sweetness to the Rovuma?"

MR. RAVENSTEIN said he was inclined to believe that the lake generally referred to as Nyassa or Nyanja was not identical with the Nyassa of Livingstone, but that on proceeding for about 70 miles to the north of the debouchure of the Shiré, having the Maravi on the left, we should enter a very narrow channel with a strong current, which, gradually widening, led, in a north-westerly direction, into the upper lake—the great Nyanja. At Zandenge (say in $13^{\circ} 15' \text{ s. lat.}, 35^{\circ} 10' \text{ e. long.}$) the width of this channel was very inconsiderable, for people on opposite banks could hail each other. To explain his views with more precision, he would state the assumed latitudes and longitudes of the places he was about to name. Thus, at Mjenga ($13^{\circ} 5' \text{ s. lat.}$) it was at most two miles; under $12^{\circ} 55' \text{ s. lat.}, 34^{\circ} 5' \text{ e. long.}$, there was a mountainous island, inserted on the Missionary map, and mentioned by Candido and Dr. Barth's Arab merchant. Three days' journey to the north of this island was the ferry (Gnombo) Nussewa ($12^{\circ} 35' \text{ s. lat.}, 34^{\circ} 30' \text{ e. long.}$), where, according to Dr. Roscher, the opposite shore could be seen only on a clear day. Boats crossed the lake here in a day and a half, probably in a south-west direction. Still further north the opposite shore was not discernible at all, and nothing reliable was known regarding the termination of the lake in that direction. It had been suggested that Gnombo and Mjenga were situated somewhere near the debouchure of the Shiré, but the great distance from Kilwa, and the shape of the southern extremity of Livingstone's Nyassa, were unfavourable to such a supposition.

There existed apparently great discrepancies in the various itineraries leading to the lake from Kilwa, but all bore internal evidence of leading to neighbouring localities on the same lake: they crossed the river Rovuma about midway, climbed the Njesa mountains before reaching the lake, and in two instances led through Lukelingo (Keringo), the capital of Hiao. The time occupied on the journey was 60 days according to Mr. Cooley; 56 days according to Baron von Decken; 30 days according to the missionaries. Dr. Roscher had actually made the journey in about 50 days, and one of his caravans in 25 days. Great differences in the length of a day's journey were by no means rare in Africa; and Gamitto, on going from Tetté to Lucenda, had made only $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles' actual progress a day, but $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles on his return. In the present instance Baron von Decken's journey into the interior, to within 9 days of the Rovuma river, enabled us to estimate the distance from Kilwa to Gnombo, and approximately to fix its position. The latter was controlled by the route of a Senhor Candido, who had travelled from Tetté in a N.N.W. direction, through the country of the Maravi, had come upon the lake in the country of the Shiva, after 45 days, and crossed it (probably in the direction of Gnombo) in 36 hours. According to the position assumed, Candido must have travelled at the rate of 5 miles a day. Another itinerary led to the lake from Mozambique.

The following facts spoke in favour of the northern Nyanja being connected through a narrow channel with a lake further south. Both Gamitto and Dr. Roscher spoke of a strong current which flowed in that direction. Candido was positively assured on the upper Nyanja that the Shiré flowed from it; and the Rev. J. Erhardt told us that the Wamuera, dwelling on the western shore of the lake, three days to the south of Mjenga, came to that ferry to be put across. There was no conclusive evidence of the Rovuma river coming

from this lake. Where the routes from Kilwa crossed that river it flowed north and south. It might, however, owe its origin to a lake, which Dr. Krapf placed at 10 days' journey west of Kilwa.

The third Paper read was—

3. *Despatch from Dr. Baikie, Commander of the Niger Expedition, to Earl Russell, dated Lukoja, September 10th, 1861. Communicated by the FOREIGN OFFICE.*

“MY LORD,—The *Sunbeam* arrived on the afternoon of the 31st of August, and by her I received letters and despatches, being the first since 2nd March, 1860. Among them was your Lordship's despatch of June, 1860, recalling the expedition; but, after great consideration, I have ventured to defer my return to England until I can again communicate with your Lordship, and this I have done for the following reasons:—

“1st. Your Lordship has not yet been informed of the present state of affairs here, nor of what has been done here during the past year.

“2nd. My supplies being limited, and my horses having all died, I was prevented from making any lengthened journey; but as I could not be idle, I tried to take advantage of a seemingly favourable state of affairs, and accordingly made a settlement at this spot.

“3rd. The King of Núpe, the most powerful next to the Sultan of Sokoto, being desirous of seeing a market for European produce here, entered into relations with us, and undertook to open various roads for the passage of caravans, traders, and canoes to this place, which promise he has faithfully performed; I on my part, on the strength of the general tenor of my instructions, and faith in Mr. Laird's intentions, giving him to understand that it was the desire of H.M.'s Government to have a trading station here.

“4th. During our late distressed state, the King of Núpe behaved most kindly and liberally towards us, and, besides frequent presents, lent us cowries for our current expenses, so that I am now in his debt 70*l.* or thereabouts; and during the very limited stay of the steamer here, eleven days and a-half, it was totally impossible to communicate with and pay the king, and it would have been a most ungracious and impolitic act, after his extreme kindness, to have left the place in his debt, and one which I feel assured your Lordship would not have approved of.

“5th. Because, having secured a position here, and the place promising so well, I hardly feel justified in giving it up without first communicating with your Lordship.